

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising a plurality of distinct microbial species, wherein each constituent member of said plurality is:

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- (a) antagonistic against a plurality of microbial pathogens;
  - (b) non-pathogenic towards plants and animals;
  - (c) is tolerant of high temperatures;
  - (d) grows rapidly; and
  - (e) proliferates on a complex substrate.

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2. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality comprises at least one bacterial species and at least one fungal species.

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3. The composition according to Claim 2, wherein said plurality comprises at least 5 distinct microbial species.

4. The composition according to Claim 3, wherein said plurality comprises at least 5 bacterial species.

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5. The composition according to Claim 3, wherein said plurality comprises at least 2 fungal species.

6. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises a carrier.

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7. The composition according to Claim 6, wherein said carrier is a liquid.

8. The composition according to Claim 6, wherein said carrier is a solid.

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9. The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of microbial species has been proliferated on a complex substrate.

10. A composition comprising:
- (a) a plurality of distinct microbial species made up of at least 5 different bacterial species and at least 2 different fungal species, wherein each constituent member of said plurality is:
- 5 (i) antagonistic against a plurality of microbial pathogens;
- (ii) non-pathogenic towards plants and animals;
- (iii) is tolerant of high temperatures;
- (iv) grows rapidly; and
- (v) proliferates on a complex substrate; and
- 10 (b) a carrier.
11. The composition according to Claim 10, wherein said carrier is a liquid.
12. The composition according to Claim 10, wherein said carrier is a solid.
- 15 13. In an agricultural method, the improvement comprising:
- applying to at least one of soil or plant tissue a composition according to Claim 1.
14. A method of producing a composition according to Claim 1, said method
- 20 comprising:
- (a) identifying a plurality of microbial species that are:
- (i) antagonistic against a plurality of microbial pathogens;
- (ii) non-pathogenic towards plants and animals;
- (iii) tolerant of high temperatures;
- 25 (iv) grows rapidly; and
- (v) proliferates on a complex substrate; and
- (b) combining said plurality to produce said composition.
15. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said method further comprises
- 30 separately proliferating each species prior to said combining.

16. The method according to Claim 15, wherein said proliferating occurs in the presence of a complex substrate.

17. The method according to Claim 15, wherein said method further comprises  
5 combining said composition with a carrier.

18. The method according to Claim 17, wherein said carrier is a fluid.

19. The method according to Claim 17, wherein said carrier is a solid.

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20. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said identifying comprises subjecting a candidate microbial species to a series of assays which identify whether the species has all of said (i)-(v) characteristics.